

Social justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Kirstie Parker (ATSIC)

A process of consultation in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be asked their views on how to improve their position within the Australian community will lay the foundations for Aus-

tralia's best opportunity yet to achieve indigenous social justice.

To 'kickstart' the process, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, and the Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner released a joint publication on social justice issues for indigenous Australians on 10 July.

This issues paper raises a number of matters that are of interest to ALIA members. The report makes a number of observations about culture and heritage issues including these comments about intellectual property:

'Protection of intellectual property: The term 'intellectual property' covers, for indigenous peoples, such things as the creative ideas for artworks and other forms of artistic expression, designs and motifs, songs, traditional stories, and dances, forms of ceremonial practice and knowledge of plants and their properties. It has been suggested there is a need for legislation or other arrangements that recognise and protect ownership of these forms of expression in ways which conform with traditional practices of ownership and use.

'Some protection is already provided in copyright law. Copyright law provides for all individual artists to control certain uses of their artistic works, most notably its reproduction. A number of indigenous artists have been able to take action under this law to stop reproduction of their original artwork without their permission and to secure financial compensation for its illegal use.

'Copyright law can protect individual artists, but does not cover Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customary systems of communal ownership and control over forms of cultural expression. For example, it does not protect the styles or designs or stories which may traditionally be owned and controlled by a clan or community.

'The protection of copyright is also limited in time and ceases 50 years after the author's or artist's death. After that time anyone can legally reproduce and exploit for profit an artist's work.'

Contact Kirstie at ATSIC on (06) 289 3307 for information. ■

Farewell Peter Judge

On Tuesday 5 July we farewelled Peter Judge. While Peter has hung up his *inCite* Editor's boots we hope that he will remain an adviser to our Association as we negotiate our way forward with the review of our publishing role and as we move towards an enhancement of our public relations functions.

Peter has edited *inCite* for four

years. I have derived enormous pleasure and benefit from ALIA and given the chance would do it all over again and try to contribute more.'

Peter has been a member of LAA/ALIA since he arrived in Australia in 1974 and he intends to go on being a member until at least 2014, mortality permitting. One of his first acts on joining was to set



Peter Judge

up the Information Science Section to give himself a home. He served on General Council for six years, was the convener of the 'Futures Committee' that was one of the influences leading to the 'I' in ALIA, and has been a willing dogsbody for the Association in various other capacities from time to time when asked.

We wish Peter well as he concentrates his efforts on his extra-ALIA consultancy and editorial activities. ■

years, in which time he has produced fifty-nine issues—28 of the old fortnightly issues, from July 1990 until the end of 1991, and 31 of the monthly issues from 1992. He would like to thank all those members of ALIA and others who have cooperated so well by providing stories and photos, often at short notice to meet deadlines. Peter said '...it has been a varied and enjoyable job—no two *inCites* are alike and every new issue has brought its own interest and chal-